



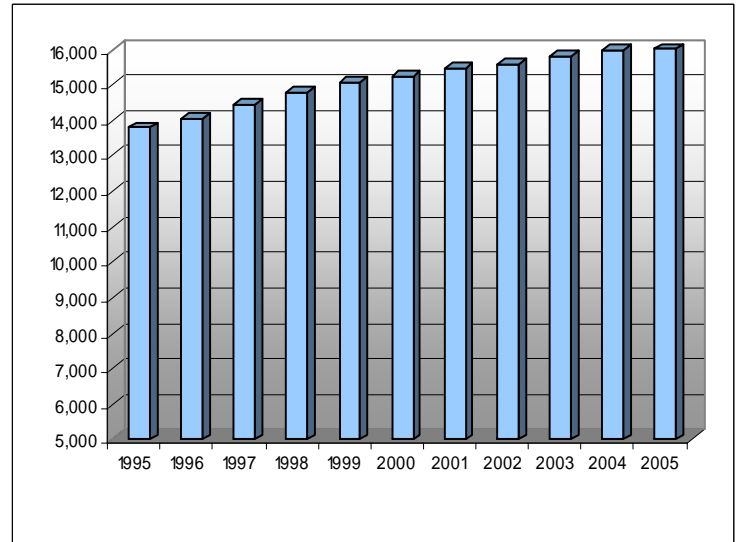
GEM COUNTY PROFILE

Prepared by John Panter, Regional Economist, Idaho Commerce & Labor
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, Idaho 83642 — (208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
E-mail: john.panter@cl.idaho.gov — Labor Market Information website: cl.idaho.gov/lmi

June 2006

Population

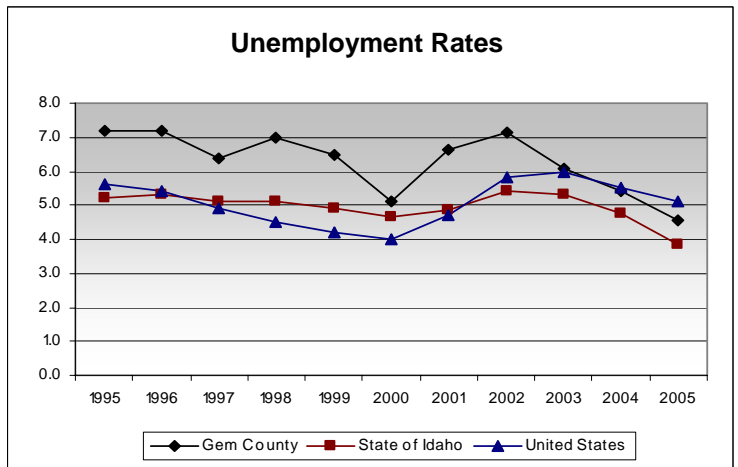
Gem County is the 19th most populous of Idaho's 44 counties and the fifth smallest geographically, and 38 percent is owned by the federal government. The population in Gem County has steadily increased over the past decade with a growth of 2,479 individuals since 1995. The population of Gem County in 2005 was 16,273, compared to 13,794 in 1995. The past decade's growth rate of 18 percent is slightly less than the state of Idaho's growth rate of 21.4 percent during the same time period. Gem County has experienced a gain in population, but has not received an equal gain in economic benefit. The population increase is largely a result of commuters residing in the county while choosing to work and shop in adjacent counties.



Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force of Gem County experienced robust growth over the last 10 years increasing by 1,331 individuals, or 21.8 percent, since 1995. The unemployment rate in Gem County in 2005 was at a decade low 4.5 percent. This was 2.7 percent lower than in 1995, 1996 and in 2002, when sawmill layoffs put many people out of work. Gem County has a large commuting population as approximately 60 percent of the county's labor force commutes to Ada County.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Gem County declined slightly by 23 jobs over the past decade. Layoffs in traditional industries such as manufacturing is one reason for this decline in the number of jobs in Gem County. Due to the lack of a reliable supply of logs and other market factors, the Boise Cascade sawmill in Emmett closed down leaving hundreds of family wage earners out of work. Agriculture, in Gem County has also suffered job losses as some of the

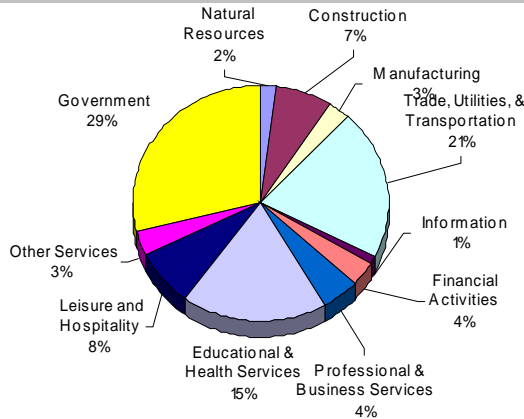


area orchards and other farming businesses have struggled or have gone out of business. Over the last 10 years, 692 jobs have been lost between manufacturing and agriculture. Despite these losses, most other sectors of the economy added jobs. Due to development and population moving northward, the construction industry added nearly 100 new jobs while education and health services added 280 jobs between 1994 and 2004. With increases in population comes an increase in government as well which added 117 new jobs, and many of these are teachers. As population growth continues, all of these industries will likely be where the economy is going to create jobs in the near future.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	7,551	7,814
Total Employment	7,197	7,499
Unemployed	355	315
Gem County % Unemployed	4.7	4.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	6,101	6,210	6,290	6,400	6,260	7,026	7,198	7,182	7,073	7,109	7,432
Unemployment	442	446	402	448	408	359	479	514	430	386	338
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	7.2	6.4	7.0	6.5	5.1	6.7	7.2	6.1	5.4	4.5
Employment	5,659	5,764	5,888	5,952	5,852	6,667	6,719	6,668	6,644	6,723	7,095

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Per Capita Income & Employment

According to the latest figures, Gem County ranks 37th in the state in terms of per capita income at \$20,806. This is 22.6 percent below the statewide average and 33.9 percent below the national average.

Trade transportation and utilities, education and health services and government account for the majority of jobs in Gem County. Due largely to the losses of higher paying jobs in the manufacturing industry, average industry wages have not risen as fast as in other areas. Annual wages range from \$8,598 in leisure and hospitality to \$27,362 for the remaining jobs in agriculture.

Major Employers

Gem County
Elderly Opportunity Agency Inc.
Walter Knox Memorial Hospital
Emmett Middle School
Emmett High School
Butte View Elementary School
Community Partnerships of Idaho Inc.
City of Emmett
Emmett Valley and Shoshone Livestock

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Cashier/Sales Clerk	\$6.28
Certified Nursing Assistant	\$7.67
Construction Laborer	\$9.04
Cook	\$8.76
Counter Clerk	\$6.45
Farm Laborer	\$6.08
Landscape Laborer	\$7.59
Material Handler	\$7.41
Registered Nurse	\$18.95
Office Clerk	\$8.39
Plumber, Apprentice	\$8.89
Waiter/Waitress	\$6.02

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,008	\$19,177	2,858	\$21,373	2,985	\$22,027
Agriculture	383	\$17,416	156	\$26,877	177	\$27,362
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	108	\$14,802	183	\$25,736	209	\$23,939
Manufacturing	566	\$31,118	78	\$25,804	80	\$26,700
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	582	\$15,363	609	\$19,871	591	\$21,658
Information	17	\$15,839	23	\$15,400	29	\$16,725
Financial Activities	87	\$16,495	112	\$23,125	101	\$25,020
Professional and Business Services	83	\$21,299	117	\$19,154	130	\$19,870
Educational and Health Services	250	\$14,273	454	\$17,077	530	\$17,270
Leisure and Hospitality	160	\$5,530	220	\$8,700	223	\$8,598
Other Services	46	\$12,048	85	\$15,781	79	\$16,064
Government	708	\$19,596	809	\$26,470	825	\$27,349

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Gem County	\$16,323	\$17,157	\$17,358	\$17,880	\$18,219	\$19,375	\$19,891	\$19,234	\$19,375	\$20,806
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Commerce & Labor
2030 S. Washington Street
Emmett, ID 83617-9450 Ph: (208) 364-7780



This publication is produced by Idaho Commerce & Labor funded at least in part by federal grants from the United States Department of Labor.

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